



Public Corruption

Attorney General Steve Carter Fights Government Fraud

Attorney General Steve Carter's Role in Fighting Public Corruption in Indiana

October, 2003

Carter agrees to join the Lake County Prosecutor in creating the Lake County Joint Vote Fraud Task Force

November, 2003

First charges filed by the *Task Force* for illegal voting in the 2003 East Chicago (EC) primary election

January, 2004

United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana Joe Van Bokkelen joins the Task Force

February, 2004

Carter intervenes in Pabey v. Pastrick in the Indiana Supreme Court resulting in a special election in the EC Democratic Mayoral primary election.

August 2004

Attorney General Carter files **RICO** action against 27 East Chicago public officials and private companies naming the City of EC as the corrupt enterprise

August, 2006

Indiana Supreme Court orders special election in EC Democratic Mayoral primary election

September, 2006

Felony charges filed against EC City employees for vote fraud.

September, 2006

A total of 53 individuals charged with felonies for illegal voting activities in the '03 EC primary election.

May, 2007

Carter, NAAG host a national RICO conference in Indianapolis.

July, 2007

28 individuals have been convicted for vote fraud by the Joint Vote Fraud Task Force.

December, 2007

The Task Force achieves 90 percent conviction rate in vote fraud cases

Prosecutors across the country get insight into Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) laws; Carter, NAAG host National Conference in Indianapolis

In June 2007, prosecutors from around the country joined Attorney General Steve Carter in Indianapolis to address and learn more about Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) laws. The conference was the second to be spearheaded by the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) and Carter since 2005.



University of Notre Dame Professor of Law G. Robert Blakey and Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter (right) share thoughts before the opening of the national RICO conference in Indianapolis (May 31, 2007).

Carter files first civil Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) action naming an Indiana city as the corrupt enterprise

Attorney General Carter files RICO lawsuit against 27 defendants, including former East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick for spending millions in public funds on a sidewalk improvement plan. [Release](#)

"This is a courageous use of Federal and Indiana RICO against entrenched political corruption. I am proud to be associated with the litigation and offer my assistance as it moves forward."
Notre Dame Law School Professor G. Robert Blakey

[Another Cloud over East Chicago, Editorial](#)

Times of Northwest Indiana, August 3, 2004

[RICO Suit Demands Pastrick's Ouster](#)

Times of Northwest Indiana, August 5, 2004

Attorney General investigation leads to 53 people charged for illegal vote fraud activity [Release](#)

"Each and every charge in this investigation is important to the entire picture of vote fraud that has occurred."

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter

AG Launches Vote Fraud Hotline

EC employees Charged in Vote Fraud

Times Northwest Indiana, September 22, 2006

"This is a precautionary measure considering the extraordinary events in the past municipal elections in Lake County."

Steve Carter

Carter Supports a Special Election in the 2003 East Chicago Democratic Mayoral Primary Election; Files Amicus in Pabey v. Pastrick [Release](#)

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter has filed an amicus brief with the Indiana Supreme Court asking the justices to consider a special election in East Chicago. Carter argues that rampant fraud occurred and the citizens deserve an uncorrupted election.

"Honest government begins with honest elections. The trial court found many instances of illegal actions and I am pleased the Indiana Supreme Court decided to hear this case. For too long, citizens in Lake County have been victims of public corruption. The order by the Supreme Court of a special election can go a long way toward restoring public confidence in their local government."

Steve Carter

Note: George Pabey was one of the mayoral candidates for the Democratic nomination for the City of East Chicago in the spring of 2003. Pabey defeated the incumbent Robert Pastrick by 199 votes in ballots cast at polling sites. But of 1,950 absentee ballots, Pastrick defeated Pabey by 477 votes with a final victory for Pastrick by 278 votes.

Attorney General Carter Applauds the Indiana Supreme Court's Order for a Special Election in East Chicago August 2006

The Indiana Supreme Court ordered a special election in the East Chicago Democratic primary election between George Pabey and Robert Pastrick. The Court agreed with the trial court that:

- a deliberate series of actions occurred that perverted the absentee voting process and compromised the integrity and result of that election
- there were concerted, purposeful efforts such as a predatory pattern exercised by Pastrick supporters,....weekly exhortations in meetings....and direct solicitation of a vote for cash

Joint vote Fraud Task Force Achieves 90 Percent Conviction Rate [Release](#)

"Our prosecutorial team has been vigilant in bringing these cases to closure and has a proven success record that they will continue to pursue," Attorney General Carter said. "Our joint efforts have been unprecedented in the area of vote fraud. There has not been any other time in our state's history that we have found where there has been this pervasive level of vote fraud charges or convictions. Each conviction is one more step in restoring honesty and integrity in the Lake County electoral process."

Steve Carter

Former Schererville Town Judge Charged by Joint Task Force Sentenced to 15 Months in Prison

The Joint Vote Fraud Task Force of the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, the Indiana Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Attorneys Office and the FBI filed corruption charges against former Schererville Town Court Judge Deborah Riga. The charges grew out of a vote fraud investigation by AG Carter and Prosecutor Carter who were then joined in the investigation by former U.S. Attorney Joe Van Bokkelen. Riga was convicted and sentenced in 2008. ([Northwest Indiana Times](#)) [Feds Join Task Force](#)

Links to other Corruption Investigations by Attorney General Steve Carter

- [Joint Vote Fraud Task Force investigates Schererville Judge: Investigation shuts down Town Court](#) (Northwest Indiana Times)
- [Carter investigates East Chicago entities given millions in riverboat revenues](#)
- [Carter investigates former enterprise zone association in Gary \(Gary Urban Enterprise Association\) for misuse of public funds](#)